

**T**he Greenway Compact Program is a voluntary partnership between the Greenway Council and local communities to work toward Greenway goals, help build a network of connecting routes, and use the Greenway Guides to improve their surroundings.



Greenways  
are connections  
between people  
and places

## An Introduction to:

### Greenway Connections

Greenway Compact Program and Guides  
for Dutchess County Communities

*Greenway Connections* is an easy-to-use sourcebook of inspiring ideas, practical solutions, and colorful illustrations that highlight:

- the substantial economic benefits of becoming a Greenway community;
- exciting projects for community and waterfront development, open space protection, trails, scenic roadways, and cultural attractions;
- how-to guidelines that help us with everyday design decisions.

View online version at  
[www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov)

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# Greenway Connections

**T**he Greenway works with Compact communities toward five complementary goals:

- Natural and cultural resource protection;
- Economic development, including agriculture, tourism, and urban redevelopment;
- Public access;
- Regional planning; and
- Heritage and environmental education.

The Greenway Compact creates connections on all levels, first through cooperative agreements among neighboring communities, but also by encouraging other forms of connections from regional trail systems to more integrated site plan choices:

## Think Regionally, Act Locally

The Hudson Valley is not only a natural system of scenic and historic beauty, it is also part of an important regional economy. A basic premise of the Greenway goals is that environmental values can coexist with and even improve economic development opportunities. Greenway encourages regional programs of cooperation such as Hudson Valley tourist promotion and joint marketing of agricultural products. In a growing global economy, the larger region is part of our locality.

*The Harlem Valley Rail Trail through Millerton has been designed as a centerpiece village green for the business district around the old train station.*



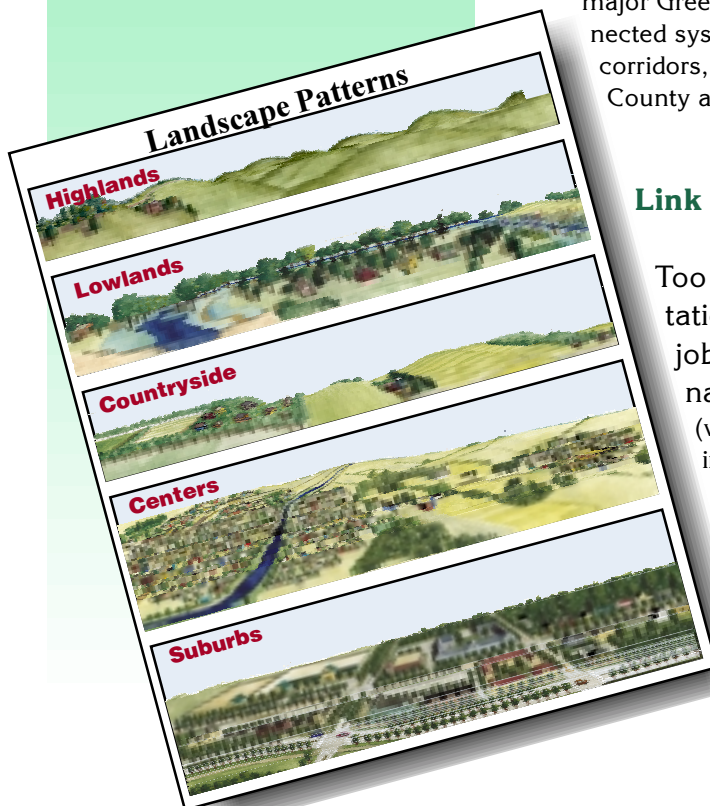
## Build a Network of Walkways and Connecting Routes

Greenways are paths where the natural and human landscapes coincide. A major Greenway public access project is to, step-by-step, build an interconnected system of scenic roads and streets, bike and transit routes, open space corridors, waterways, and sidewalks linked to trails throughout Dutchess County and the region.

## Link Together Landscape Patterns

Too often our methods of decision making rely on segmentation. Zoning districts separate housing from stores and job sites, the environment is segmented into various natural constraints (wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes) with different rules and regulating agencies, while layers of government create additional fragmented jurisdictions.

Greenway principles emphasize an interrelated approach to land preservation and development linked to broader landscape patterns, especially those that make continuous connections. *Greenway Connections* provides key principles to build on or improve landscape patterns that are essential to Dutchess County's traditions and its future.





# CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES THAT CAN LAST A LIFETIME

## Create Connections in Every Site Plan

The Greenway Guides offer practical suggestions to help communities grow and prosper without sacrificing their traditional character. They set forth a common design language to serve as a meeting point among various parties. To some extent, the individual guides are based on the principle that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” They give strong visual clues about the kinds of development a community would prefer, but still allow flexibility in the local review process.

The Guides are like a toolbox, but success can only be measured by the places we build. Each subdivision and site plan represents a unique set of challenges. However, every planning choice is also an important opportunity to build open space systems and reinforce connections between neighboring properties. If the community agrees to basic Greenway guidelines up front, the development review process will thrive from a coordinated and more streamlined approach.



*An innovative design to insert a shade tree between every 4 - 6 parking spaces, creating a parking grove without losing a single spot.*

*Communities that want to redevelop ugly strip commercial districts can follow seven steps to “Zip Up the Strip”*



### Initial Greenway Guides

#### Protecting the Countryside

1. Fitting Into the Landscape
2. Preventing Strip Subdivisions
3. Site Sensitive Utilities
4. Saving Farmland with Development

#### Strengthening Centers

1. Priority Growth Areas
2. Walkable Communities
3. Building in Context

#### Improving Suburbs

1. Commercial Strip Redevelopment
2. From Congestion to Circulation

#### Greenway Connections

1. Connected Habitats
2. Stream Corridor Protection
3. Highways into Greenways
4. Wellhead and Aquifer Protection

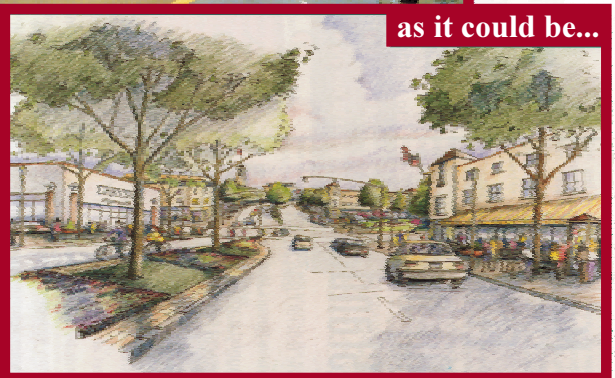
#### Site Specifics

1. Landscaping
2. Signs
3. Parking Lots
4. Lighting
5. Street Trees

as it is...



as it could be...



*Commercial highways can be gradually converted to Greenways with street trees, good signs and landscaping, shorter building setbacks, sidewalks, and rear parking.*

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## Reasons why you should join the Greenway Compact

1. Your community receives a variety of immediate incentives and longer term benefits with **no sacrifice of local decision making powers**.
2. If you want to protect farmland, promote trails, scenic roads, waterfront redevelopment or any other Greenway goal, **matching Greenway grant money** can help.
3. Greenway Compact community projects may get **higher priority ratings for large competitive state grants**.
4. If you want to update local regulations to complement Compact policies, Greenway can offer **100 percent funding and protection from law suits**.
5. Greenway can help your community connect with **additional federal grant money** which will be available to the Hudson Valley from the recent American Heritage River and National Heritage Area designations.
6. Greenway will work with state agencies to make **state actions consistent with local Compact agreements** whenever possible.
7. Compact communities have **more local control** over shoreline construction of docks, boathouses, and moorings.
8. You have the flexibility for **streamlined environmental reviews** on projects that fit in with the Greenway Compact Program.
9. Greenway staff are always available to you with **sound advice and technical know-how**.
10. The bottom line is that the **Greenway Compact Program will pay off** by attracting higher quality private investment and more opportunities for financial and other assistance for Greenway communities.

*Joining the Greenway Compact allows  
communities to pull together toward common goals,  
yet keeps responsibility where it belongs, at the local level.*



Marist College, Photo: Peter Finger